

**Watkins Patent Services***Patent Services, Mechanical, Electrical Design and Prototyping***Draft Amendments****April 7, 2008****To: T. Noland  
Art Unit 2856****From: Ken Watkins****Ref: 10/506,518  
Draft 312 Amendment**

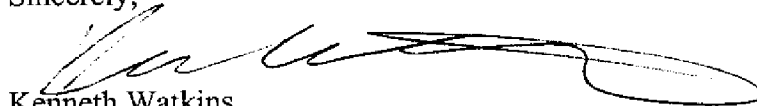
Examiner Noland;

I am looking at a still better amendment of the terminology of claim 1. I have attached it for your consideration.

I believe this terminology is much better and retains all of the elements and limitations of the previous versions. I prefer this one, although if you have a problem with it, the previous one with your suggestion ("the same electrical property" on line 8)

I will enter the selected one of these amendments with payment of the issue fee. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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Application No. 10/506,518

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**DRAFT****Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of determining environmentally induced degradation of a polymer, the method comprising the steps of:  
adding conductive particles to the polymer to form a conductive composite comprising a preselected weight percent of conductive particles;
- 5 making an electrical connection with the conductive composite and measuring an electrical property of the conductive composite; and  
equating ~~the measured~~ a change in the electrical property of the conductive composite, ~~said measured electrical property consistent with a decrease in electrical resistivity,~~ with  
~~an~~ the electrical property of a previously degraded sample of the conductive composite to
- 10 determine the degradation of the polymer, the change in the electrical property consistent with a decrease in electrical resistivity.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured electrical property is electrical resistivity.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured electrical property is electrical conductivity.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradation of the polymer is mechanical degradation of the polymer.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the mechanical property comprises a durometer of the polymer.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the mechanical property comprises an elongation property of the polymer.